

MI Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

MI HMHB NEWSLETTER—SPRING 2008

Plan to attend HMHB's annual conference June 5th & 6th!

A word from the Chair

Spring is in the air and I am anxiously awaiting the sight of new buds on the trees and flowers poking their heads through the ground. Spring is a time of renewal, a chance for starting over and revitalizing. Within our organization it is a time to look at what we have accomplished and where we want to go from here.

During the past year we have reviewed and adapted the coalition by-laws, refined the maintenance of our membership list, provided timely legislative information to the membership through both e-mails and the Michigan HMHB website (www.hmhbmi.org), and demonstrated the effectiveness of electronic communication. Now we must look to the future and what we want to achieve.

In order for our coalition to remain a valuable resource in the state, we all must make a contribution for its continued success. I would like to recognize the Western Region for their continued efforts to both support the coalition and to provide valuable information and education to those in their region. Their commitment and leadership has been exceptional. It saddens me that the Western Region is the only region that is truly functional at the time of this writing. I would like to challenge the members of the other regions to become more active both within their region and at the state level.

I hope to see each of you at the annual conference to be held on June 5th and 6th in Bay City.

Enjoy the sun and prospect of warmer weather!

Midge McCaustland, Chair

Breastfeeding Network News

Michigan Breastfeeding Network Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network (BFN), a committee of HMHB, is a statewide organization dedicated to providing a unified voice for institutions and individuals to address breastfeeding issues in our state. The BFN was formed in 1998 at a breakfast meeting during the annual Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Conference. A celebration for the ten years of advocacy will take place at this year's HMHB conference on the evening of June 5. Kathleen Kendall Tackett, PhD, IBCLC and author or editor of 15 breastfeeding-related books will attend the dinner. Check the conference brochure for information on joining the celebration.

Check out the Michigan Breastfeeding Network website, www.mibfnetwork.org to find a list of breastfeeding coalitions throughout Michigan. Consider joining forces with other individuals to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding Network Annual Awards will be presented at the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Conference. Awards are given to individuals or organizations to recognize their outstanding service and achievement in the area of human lactation. More information on the categories and an application are available on the website.

Throughout the month of August the importance of human milk for human babies is showcased in Michigan. In conjunction with the Summer Olympics, Breastfeeding Awareness Month 2008 will focus on greater support for mothers in achieving the gold standard of infant feeding. Website information on this year's theme is at <http://www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>.

New Continuing Nursing Education Modules

Help Nurses Care for Mothers and Babies

For nurses seeking up-to-date and cost-effective continuing education on the care of mothers and babies, the March of Dimes is now offering three new publications (modules):

- Challenges and Management of Infertility, Including Assisted Reproductive Technologies;
- Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use in Childbearing Families; and
- Sexually Transmitted Infections, Including HIV: Impact on Women's Reproductive Health.

"Challenges and Management of Infertility, Including Assisted Reproductive Technologies" focuses on the unique problems that infertility brings to women and their partners. This module describes factors that render couples unable to conceive naturally and treatment strategies intended to overcome them. The author, Kit S. Devine, MSN, ARNP, describes assisted reproductive methods in detail, emphasizing the special contribution that nurses can make to the care of infertile women and their families.

"Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use in Childbearing Families" presents an overview of the extent and impact of use of these substances by pregnant women, and gives nurses evidence-based strategies to support families dealing with these problems. Author Margaret H. Kearney, PhD, RN, FAAN, also tackles social and ethical issues that complicate the care of these families.

"Sexually Transmitted Infections, Including HIV: Impact on Women's Reproductive Health" provides the perinatal nurse with essential clinical information concerning sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This module includes the scope of the problem; pathogens associations with STIs; epidemiology of specific STIs; risk factors; modes of transmission; and complications. The authors are Catherine Ingram Fogel, PhD, RN, FAAN and Beth Perry Black, PhD, RN.

March of Dimes Nursing Modules help perinatal nurses integrate the latest scientific and clinical advances into the care of mothers and babies. Nursing modules are written for nurses, by

nurses, and are a cost-effective way for registered nurses and certified nurse-midwives to earn continuing education credits. Modules may be purchased for \$25.00 by calling the March of Dimes Fulfillment Center toll-free at 1-800-367-6630.

For more information on these or the more than two dozen other nursing modules available from the March of Dimes, contact Mary Lavan, Manager, Professional Education Services, at 914-997-4609 or mlavan@marchofdimes.com.

Research by March of Dimes Grantee Offers Hope for Treatment of Children

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., FEB. 6, 2008 -- A new gene-based technique has successfully prevented a rare craniofacial birth defect in mice and holds promise to help children with the same disorder, according to new research funded in part by the MOD.

Paul A. Trainor, Ph.D., a March of Dimes research grantee, and a team of scientists at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City, Missouri, demonstrated that they could prevent Treacher Collins syndrome (TCS) in mice by either inactivating a gene associated with the disorder or by inhibiting a protein produced by the gene.

In TCS, mutations in the TCOF1 gene on chromosome 5 causes a high degree of cell death in the embryo, resulting in a deficiency in a cell population called the neural crest that is essential for generating most of the bone and cartilage that make up the head and face. Dr. Trainor's team showed in 2006 that the loss of these cells results in abnormal embryonic development of structures such as the ear, nose, palate, and upper and lower jaws.

About one in 50,000 people is affected by TCS, also called mandibulofacial dysostosis. The condition is characterized by underdeveloped, malformed, or missing facial structures. Severely affected children often require multiple reconstructive surgeries, which may not fully correct the disorder.

In about 60 percent of cases, TCS results from new gene mutations and occurs in people with no history of the disorder in their family. Less frequently, TCS is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, meaning that one parent has the disorder and has passed a copy of the mutated gene to the child.

Published February 3, 2008 online by Nature Medicine, doi:10.1038/nm1725.; N. C. Jones, P. A. Trainor, et al.

MI State Government

MDCH Budget—The budget process is in full swing. The budget process is expected to be completed by early July.

The Michigan League for Human Services' analysis of the entire budget as proposed by the Governor is available at www.milhs.org. Excerpts from that publication and analysis from Betsy Weihl at Wiener & Associates follow:

The Governor's budget recommends a budget for the Department of Community Health of \$12.5 billion, with \$3.1 billion coming from the general fund. This figure represents more than a quarter of the total state budget and 30% of the statewide general fund recommendation.

Medicaid health and long term care services represent about 68 percent of the MDCH budget, with Medicaid-funded mental health services totaling an additional 20 percent.

The Executive Budget recommended new investments in public health services and no reductions in Healthy Michigan Fund programs.

The Senate completed action on the Department of Community Health budget bill (Senate Bill 1094), passing it on a vote of 20-18 in March.

The Senate adopted few of the Governor's key initiatives and inserted priorities of their own. Key policy changes included elimination of Medicaid coverage for federally defined optional 19 and 20 year olds, a reduction of \$10.8 million in Healthy Michigan Fund funding, and a Medicaid physician rate increase for primary care services. Senate amendments that were adopted included \$125,000 to expand Healthy Kids Dental into the city of Roseville; \$25,000 for a pilot diabetes management program in Muskegon; and boilerplate language requiring the Department to present its plan for a centralized mental health risk pool by January 1.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to report out its recommendations on the MDCH budget by May 14.

The full bill and a summary, as passed 3/25/08 is available at:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2007-2008/billengrossed/Senate/pdf/2008-SEBS-1094.pdf>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid—Proposed Changes in Medicaid

Changes in Medicaid regulations were issued by the Bush Administration that may have a devastating impact on the Medicaid program. The changes will affect health care providers, local governments, school districts and residents served by the Medicaid program.

The proposed rule, "Medicaid Program; Cost Limit for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions To Ensure the Integrity of Federal-State Financial Partnership", affects payment for Graduate Medical Education, rehabilitation services, school-based administration and school-based transportation, treatment of optional case management services, outpatient hospital services, and allowable provider taxes.

The Joint Economic Committee of the House and Senate concluded that the slowing economy will likely lead to substantial increases in Medicaid/CHIP demand. The range of cutbacks to CHIP and Medicaid proposed by the Administration will put increased fiscal demands on states at a time when they are ill equipped to handle them. One suggested course of action was to delay or cancel the proposed regulations that shift Medicaid costs to states, at least until possible impacts of a slowing economy are better understood.

H.R.5613, sponsored by MI Representative John Dingell, has already been introduced. It would extend temporary moratoria and impose additional moratoria on these regulations included in this rule through April 1, 2009. However, the rule on Targeted Case Management and Provider taxes are now in effect and will soon impose restrictions on federal funding.

Medicaid currently provides health care for 1 out of every 7 residents in Michigan. MDCH estimates these regulations could cost Michigan roughly \$750m in federal funds (\$500m general fund) in '09 and \$3.9 billion in federal funds (\$2.6 billion general fund) over 5 years.

Sources:

www.house.gov

www.cms.hhs.gov

More information can be found at these web sites.

Thanks to Sue Gough for her policy updates!!

Agency Spotlight—Reducing Infant Mortality through Community Health Center Practice

“This is not your ordinary doctor’s office,” states midwife Bethany Brown, who recently joined the staff of Muskegon Family Care. As a federally-qualified health center, Muskegon Family Care has many services available to address the physical, emotional and psychosocial needs of pregnant women and infants at risk. The health center serves over 20,000 residents of the Muskegon area, and offers services that include Maternal Infant Health Program, Reach Out and Read to promote literacy among pre-school aged infants, and transportation to appointments. “We are also very conscious of the material needs of our patients, and have a small emergency needs fund which often purchases needed baby supplies for families that can’t afford them. It’s a luxury to practice in a setting that has so many built-in supports for families at risk. Practicing here means you never have to worry alone – there’s a team here to support the family and to support you,” notes Brown.

Muskegon Family Care is looking to expand its provider base and has openings for physicians, dentists, mid-level providers and nurse midwives. If you are interested in practice opportunities at Muskegon Family Care, please visit their website at www.mfc-health.org Opportunities at health centers throughout the state can be found at www.mpca.net

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2008—Opportunities for advocacy and educating the candidates.

Many national and state offices are open this election year, including all seats in the MI State House of Representatives. Take this opportunity to educate aspiring public officials on the issues that affect the health and well being of mothers and babies. Learn more about the candidates and issues at the Secretary of State web site, www.michigan.gov/sos. Remember to register and VOTE!

IMPORTANT DATES

Primary election – August 5, 2008

Last day to register to vote in the primary election is July 7th.

General election – November 4, 2008

Last day to register to vote in the general election is October 6th.

Upcoming Events

The Midwives Alliance of North America and The Michigan Midwives Association are hosting a conference at The Grand Traverse Resort on October 16th - 19th. Mark your calendar.

The Registered Nurses Association in Michigan (RN-AIM) is holding its third Annual Conference on Thursday, October 2 and Friday, October 3, 2008 at Crystal Mountain near Traverse City. The theme is "Enhancing Professional Nursing through Mentoring & Evidence-Based Practice". RN-AIM will also host a legislative panel which will discuss current issues affecting nursing and health care in Michigan. For further information or to submit a Research Abstract for the poster session, please contact RN-AIM at MPRandall@RN-AIM.org.