

# MI Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Newsletter

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October 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 1

**November 6<sup>th</sup> is  
Election Day.**

**Make your voice  
heard – VOTE!**

## A word from the Chair.....

As I sit at my computer to write this message the wind is softly blowing the leaves off the trees and the realization that winter is not far away finally sets in. Once again I am thrilled to be the chair of such a wonderful organization, Michigan Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition! In the past we have made many accomplishments, but there is still much that needs to be done to promote and protect the health of mothers, babies, and families in Michigan.

Once again, our annual conference was a great success. Thanks to those who helped plan the conference. Thanks also to everyone who provided support by their attendance, input, and evaluation. A special thanks for giving me the honor of the Terri Wright Award. Keep in mind that the 2008 annual conference will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Bay City. During the next few months think about those colleagues, organizations, and/or corporations who might meet the qualifications for the 2008 Terri Wright and/or Doug Paterson Awards.

Recently, there has been a controversy regarding the consumption of fish by

pregnant women. This issue was addressed during the most recent Executive Committee meeting. MI HMHB will continue to follow Michigan Division of Environmental Health and the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) recommendation that pregnant women consume *no more than* 12 ounces of fish a week. Visit the MDCH Health Fish Advisory site at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2944-13110-,00.html> for more information. In addition, you may visit the National HMHB site at <http://www.hmhb.orgoceanfishpr.html> for their view on this issue.

Our coalition has moved ahead to keep pace with the rest of the world so our meeting announcements, newsletters, etc. will now be sent out electronically. We have found this to be cost efficient and timely. Therefore, it is important to keep us advised of any changes in your contact information by sending the updated information by e-mail to [info@hmhbmi.org](mailto:info@hmhbmi.org). Feel free to send newsletters and other information to anyone who shares our mission and goals. Remember to visit our website at [www.hmhbmi.org](http://www.hmhbmi.org) frequently for contact information,

advocacy updates, resources, conference planning and other information on coalition activities.

Remember that our coalition can only be effective with your support and contribution. All organizational members are also members of the coalition Steering Committee. In addition, all coalition members are welcome to attend the Steering Committee in person or by teleconference. Meeting notices are sent out prior to the meetings that are held the second Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November. Individual members are encouraged to provide support through their regions. All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting that takes place during the annual conference in June. A reminder that membership renewals are due in January.

Thank you again for all of your hard work for the mothers, babies, and families in Michigan.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Midge McCaustland, Chair

## ***MDCH Birth Defects Prevention and Intervention Program***

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Newborn Screening Laboratory is pleased to announce that with the recent addition of screening for cystic fibrosis (CF) all Michigan newborns are now tested for 49 different disorders. The identification of these 49 disorders in newborns is vital to begin beneficial treatments and interventions as early as possible.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited genetic disorder that causes the body to make thick, sticky mucus. The mucus clogs the airways of the lungs and causes problems with the way the pancreas helps break down food. Early diagnosis and treatment of children with CF provides the opportunity for these individuals to lead longer and healthier lives. For additional information on newborn screening or cystic fibrosis, please contact the

Michigan Newborn Screening program at 1-866-673-9939 or go to [www.michigan.gov/newbornscreening](http://www.michigan.gov/newbornscreening).



### Birth Defects and Genetic Conditions Resources for Michigan Families and Professionals

Birth Defects Prevention and Intervention Program News- The program is excited to present the Birth Defects Resource Kit. Each kit contains more than 100 pieces of information from Michigan programs that support babies and young children such as Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS), Newborn Screening (NBS), Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and *Early On*® Michigan. Key program resources were developed by the program with input from community reviewers. *Special Care for Special Kids* is a guide for Michigan families. The manual follows the Medical Home theme to support the need for accessible, family centered, coordinated, compassionate, culturally effective care. In addition, there is a section on

keeping track of information with sample forms to help families keep everything in one place. The *Hospital Referral Guide*, for healthcare providers, summarizes Best Practices in referral to community resources when preparing for discharge of an infant with special care needs. The Newborn Screening Disorders and Genetic Disorders fact sheets provide condition-specific information and resources to families and providers.

#### More new resources:

-The first issue of the Michigan Monitor, the Michigan Birth Defects Program Newsletter, came out for Summer 2007. Folic acid outreach and multivitamin distribution in selected Michigan counties is featured in Issue #1.

-*Folic Acid in the Prevention of Neural Tube Defects* is an online independent study for professionals. Nurses completing the training are eligible for 1 contact hour.

-The Michigan Public Health Genomics page - [www.michigan.gov/genomics](http://www.michigan.gov/genomics) - is where you will find links to these and other program resources. -January is Birth Defects Prevention Month - Infectious Disease is the focus in 2008. Be on the lookout for the Michigan virtual resource folder coming soon...

Joan Ehrhardt, MS, CGC  
Jane Simmermon, MPH, RN  
Birth Defects Prevention and Intervention Program,  
Division of Genomics,  
Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease Epidemiology  
Michigan Department of Community Health

## SMANN - Southeastern MI Association of Neonatal Nurses

The Southeastern MI Association of Neonatal Nurses (SMANN) was the proud recipient of four Chapter Awards at the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) Annual Conference last month in San Diego, CA. The awards were given in the areas of Community Projects, Membership, Fundraising Efforts and Communications. Co-Presidents Jennifer Boyle and Linda Reid presented information about conference planning at the Chapter Leader's luncheon in CA. SMANN was recognized for its fundraising

from sources including their annual conference, Texas Hold 'Em and community garage sale. The revenue from these and other events during the year helped generate funds that were later donated to benefit groups including S\*T\*A\*R\*S\* kids (babies and families with shunts), the Detroit Institute for Children (DIC), and Camp Michi-Mac (a camp for children with asthma). Books that were not sold at the garage sale were later donated to the Dearborn Public Library while other items were given to the Salvation

Army. Members also collected items during the year that were donated to COTS and the Children's Hospital Mobile Unit. The group presented quarterly educational offerings for the members, sponsored sites for the administration of the NCC certification exam and developed a scholarship program for area nurses. Anyone who wishes to join us for an upcoming meeting, or would like to learn more about the group can visit our website at [www.smanninfo.org](http://www.smanninfo.org).

Marie Thomson,  
SMANN Membership Chairperson

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Educational Modules for Primary Care Providers and Nurses

These modules were created for professional development for nurses, physicians and other health care providers. The Federal and State of Michigan's goal is to eliminate lead poisoning by 2010.

The focus of this program is:

- Enhance professional awareness of the problem of lead poisoning;
- Increase blood lead testing

rates for young children;  
-Eliminate and/or manage lead sources;  
-Increase communication among stakeholders regarding resolution of this environmental health problem.

Visit the site <http://www.training.mihealth.org> to take the online course. For more information contact

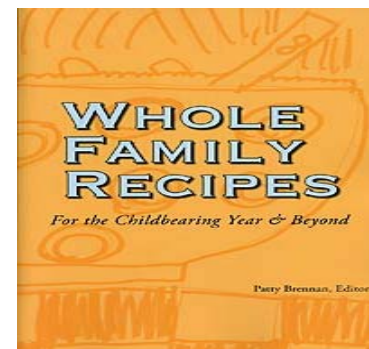
Michigan Department of  
Community Health  
Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program,  
[www.michigan.gov/leadsafe](http://www.michigan.gov/leadsafe) or  
(517) 335-8885.

Debby Behringer, RN, MSN  
Nurse Consultant  
Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program  
Michigan Department of  
Community Health

## Center for the Childbearing Year

The Center for the Childbearing Year just published a cookbook, Whole Family Recipes: For the Childbearing Year & Beyond. It is now available for purchase and is a fundraiser for the Center.

For more information contact:  
Patty Brennan,  
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**We're on the web at  
[www.hmhb.mi.org](http://www.hmhb.mi.org)**

Michigan Infant Mortality at an all time low!

**September 24, 2007** *Governor's strategy to reduce unintended pregnancies, promote infant safe sleep critical to drop in rates*

LANSING - Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced that infant mortality rates - especially among the state's African American population - are now the lowest in Michigan history thanks to a concerted effort on the part of state and local entities to combat the problem.

While the decrease in the overall infant death rate - 7.4 deaths per 1,000 births in 2006, down from 7.9 in 2005 is impressive, the drop in the African American infant death rate was staggering - from 17.9 in 2005 to 14.8 in 2006, Granholm said.

"Our continued investments in health care are making a critical difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens," Granholm said. "If we continue to make these investments, we can ensure that this progress is sustainable."... *Go to [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov) for more*

**Contact:** James McCurtis 517-241-2112

**Agency:** Community Health

## *Michigan League for Human Services*

### *Final budget resolution may hit low-income families the hardest*

LANSING – Programs for poor people will bear half of the cuts made to state departments with lawmakers looking at \$80 million in cuts to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and \$52 million to the Department of Community Health to complete the 2008 budget.

"We are balancing the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable people in our state," said Ann Marston, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services. "Let's be fair and consider what's at stake. These are basic services that keep roofs over the heads of thousands of children, cover doctor visits and pay for child care so working poor parents can keep their jobs without neglecting their children."

If made, the cuts will be disproportionate. Out of \$270 million in general fund cuts needed to finalize the budget, lawmakers are indicating that

more than half will come from those two budgets that mainly serve low-income families, from infants to seniors.

In DHS, the cuts represent a 6 percent cut in the state general fund support, while most departments will receive a 2.5 percent cut.

During the budget debate, the League supported revenue increases and opposed more cuts. While the new revenues were a welcome compromise to avoid even deeper cuts, lawmakers are considering unacceptably high cuts to programs for the poor.

Since 2001, more than \$3 billion has been cut from state programs, and the number of state employees to deliver those services is the lowest in three decades.

"It's very frustrating that once again, just days from an extended deadline, we have no budget to debate. All we know is that programs for our low-income citizens have the biggest bull's-eye in the state right now,"

said Sharon Parks, vice president for policy.

Among the programs likely to be cut are day care programs for low-income working parents. The day care program, which supports welfare-to-work efforts, pays an hourly fee ranging from \$1.35 to \$2.85 per child.

Also on the table are cuts to Medicaid. Fewer and fewer MI doctors are accepting Medicaid, a state and federal health insurance program for low-income residents, making access a continuing problem. Other options will be to raise co-pays for the poorest people in the state or end services for groups such as grandparents raising grandchildren, which could harm the very people keeping more children from flooding the foster care system.

Michigan's cash assistance grant has remained fairly flat since 1993, and has not been adjusted for inflation.

Sue Gough,  
Policy Chair