



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

1998 Annual Meeting

First Person Introducing First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton:

Catherine A. Hess, MSW
Executive Director
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Person Presenting "Inaugural AMCHP Award for Outstanding Leadership in Maternal and Child Health" to Mrs. Clinton:

Deborah Klein Walker, EdD
President
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to provide leadership to assure the health and well being of all women of reproductive age, children, youth, and families. The Association serves as a source of new ideas and in-depth knowledge on women's and children's health and the public policies that influence them.

The membership of AMCHP, which numbers nearly 400 individuals, is principally made up of the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for maternal and child health, and children with special health care needs. These programs have a common source of federal funding, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, authorized under Title V of the Social Security Act. In addition to state public health leaders, AMCHP members also include academic, advocacy, and community-based maternal and child health professionals, as well as families.

• A M C H P •



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 1998

CONTACT:
Catherine A. Hess, MSW
Executive Director
202/775-0436

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SPEAKS AT 1998 AMCHP ANNUAL MEETING, RECEIVES MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

On Monday, March 9, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed nearly 650 members of the maternal and child health community on child care issues at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). The meeting, "New Environments, New Needs: Setting the Agenda for Quality," took place in Washington, D.C. from March 9-11 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

AMCHP President Deborah Klein Walker introduced the First Lady and presented her with the AMCHP Inaugural Award for Leadership in Maternal and Child Health. After the award ceremony, Mrs. Clinton spoke to the meeting attendees about national issues related to child care. In her remarks, Mrs. Clinton praised the work of the Association and its members on key bipartisan initiatives for child health, such as the new Children's Health Insurance Program.

In praising Mrs. Clinton's leadership on children's issues, AMCHP Executive Director Catherine Hess said, "In her years in Washington and, earlier, in Arkansas, the First Lady has demonstrated a strong and consistent commitment to supporting communities and families in caring for the health and well-being of our children and youth. We look forward to her continued leadership, particularly in the pressing area of child care, and appreciate her recognition of the need to address health and safety concerns in child care settings."

AMCHP is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to provide leadership to assure the health and well being of all women of reproductive age, children, youth, including those with special health care needs, and families. The Association serves as a source of new ideas and in-depth knowledge on women's and children's health and the public policies that influence them.

The membership of AMCHP, which numbers nearly 400 individuals, is principally made up of the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for maternal and child health, and children with special health care needs. These programs have a common source of federal funding, the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, frequently referred to as Title V of the Social Security Act. In addition to state public health leaders, AMCHP members also include academic, advocacy, and community-based maternal and child health professionals, as well as families.

• A M C H P •



MAKING CHILD CARE SETTINGS HEALTHY, SAFE, AND APPROPRIATE FOR ALL CHILDREN

As growing numbers of children spend their days in child care, the need to assure that these settings are healthy and safe for all children has become even more pressing. Studies have shown that if children are healthy, safe, and well-cared for at home and in quality child care settings that meet each child's unique developmental needs, they will thrive.

State Title V Maternal and Child Health Programs and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within the Department of Health and Human Services have long recognized the need to integrate health prevention and promotion activities into child care settings to assure high quality care and healthier children. Initial activities have focused on improving linkages between health care and child care.

The maternal and child health community recognizes that there is much to be done if we are to improve health and safety conditions in child care settings for all children, including children with special health care needs. The current need for healthy and safe child care settings will only be compounded by the increasing demand for child care by women leaving welfare. But, improvements in quality child care require additional resources devoted to health and safety functions and a clear and strong role for public health.

I. FAMILIES DEPEND ON CHILD CARE

- In 1995, 61% of infants, toddlers, and preschool children under the age of six were in child care. Among those children under age one, 45% were in child care on a regular basis.
- Approximately 24 million school-age children require care while their parents are at work. And 76% of school-age children with an employed mother spend time in at least two child care arrangements during a typical week, in addition to their time in school.

II. HEALTHIER AND SAFER CHILD CARE SETTINGS FOR ALL CHILDREN

- ***Injury Prevention:*** Children must be protected from hazards and potential injuries (unintentional and intentional) at their day care settings. For example, by having safe areas for children to play as well as age-appropriate playground equipment and toys, the risk of injury is minimized. Training, support, and a national child care provider registry can help prevent intentional injury. In the event of an emergency, however, child care providers need to have policies and procedures in place as well as appropriate training to handle the situation.
- ***Disease Prevention and Control:*** Children must be protected from potentially serious infectious diseases such as measles and meningitis. Training for child care workers on how to prevent the spread of disease and illness in child care settings, including information on proper sanitation and hygiene procedures, will help reduce the spread of germs and the potential for children to contract infectious diseases. Caregivers can be active partners with the children's parents and health professionals in primary prevention, early detection, and prompt treatment of diseases.

• A M C H P •

- **Immunizations:** Child care settings are a convenient venue to conduct preventive health screenings and assure that immunizations are provided. The child care and maternal and child health community can continue to build on ongoing activities that educate child care providers and parents about the importance of immunizations and create more opportunities to immunize children.
- **Nutrition:** Child care providers can help improve the nutritional status of children by providing healthy, well-balanced and age-appropriate meals. They can also help parents better understand the nutritional needs of their growing child. Public health nutritionists can work with child care providers to develop healthy menus.
- **Promotion of Child Health:** Child care settings present opportunities to promote basic health care through vision and hearing screenings, for example. Public health professionals and the child care community can continue to work together to improve opportunities to promote and integrate preventive child health practices into child care settings and to assure that each child has a medical/health home. In addition, outreach services for Medicaid and Title XXI can be offered at child care sites.
- **Access to Quality Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs:** Families of children with disabilities have great difficulty in finding safe, appropriate and affordable child care providers to care for their children. More training and technical assistance must be available to ensure that children with special health care needs are being cared for properly. Training and support from health professionals will assure that child care settings meet the potentially complex medical needs of such children.

In addition, parents of children with special health care needs require greater access to "respite" care. To reduce family stress and enhance work opportunities, respite care, or temporary relief for the primary caregiver, is essential for the parent or caretaker who provides 24-hour care for a child with special needs.

III. STATE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS' ROLES

State Title V Maternal and Child Health and Children with Special Health Care Needs programs, funded by the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant, are frequently involved at community and state agency levels in providing technical assistance and training to child care providers regarding child health concerns. Linkages at the local level are established in many communities to assure that health care services are available for children enrolled in child care programs.

The following are examples of how state Title V programs are pursuing activities to integrate health and child care through funding from the Health Systems Delivery in Child Care Grants, supported by the MCH Block Grant.

Building Linkages Between Child Care and Health - Utah

The Utah Maternal and Child Health Program used its grant funds to develop and implement a child care training network on child health and safety. This network, in turn, developed protocols for child care providers of children with special health care needs. In addition, the Utah MCH program is focusing on the child care setting as a place to improve immunization rates.

Improving Access to Child Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs - Minnesota

Minnesota's Maternal and Child Health Program teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning to initiate a program called Project EXCEPTIONAL to help families find child care for their children with special health care needs. The project entails recruiting providers and expanding training to increase the number of qualified providers offering safe, quality care in appropriate settings to handle the medical conditions of children with special health care needs.

Health and Safety Training - North Carolina

Under the leadership of the North Carolina Maternal and Child Health program and the North Carolina Pediatric Society, the state has launched a Healthy Child Care North Carolina program to improve health and safety in child care. This program trains pediatricians and representatives of local health departments who provide health and safety information to child care providers.

IV. FEDERAL LEADERSHIP IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has taken a leadership role in helping states promote health activities in child care settings. The following activities have been supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to help states and communities build linkages between health care and child care.

- ***Health Systems Development in Child Care:*** The Maternal and Child Health Bureau has awarded \$50,000 grants to almost every state to build statewide integrated health, child care, and social services systems. The template for these activities is the Healthy Child Care America Campaign's Blueprint for Action.
- ***The Healthy Child Care America Campaign:*** This program, launched by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Child Care Bureau, has helped states and communities develop innovative programs that promote healthy child care environments; easily accessible immunizations for children in child care; access to developmental screening; health and mental health consultation; and, health, nutrition and safety education for child care providers, children and their families. Continuing support for this program is provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- ***Guidelines for Care:*** Child care providers and health professionals have benefitted by the publication of "Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs" developed jointly by the American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- ***Training for Child Care Health Consultants:*** The University of North Carolina School of Public Health has received funding to develop and implement state-based programs to train public and private sector health professionals to serve as health consultants to child care programs.
- ***National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care:*** The Center, located at the University of Colorado School of Health Science in Denver, seeks to improve child care quality by supporting state and local health departments, child care regulatory agencies, child care providers and parents through training and technical assistance, conferences, and development and distribution of resource materials.

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs recommends that health and safety measures be adequately addressed in federal and state child care activities.



The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

1998 Annual Meeting

March 9-11, 1998

Omni-Shoreham Hotel—Washington, DC

PROGRAM



In Partnership with
The Maternal and Child
Health Bureau, Health
Resources and Services
Administration, and
The Centers for
Disease Control and
Prevention

Co-sponsored by

The Adolescent Health Training Programs ♦ The Association of Teachers of
Maternal and Child Health ♦ CityMatCH ♦ Family Voices ♦ The Institute
for Family-Centered Care ♦ State Adolescent Health Coordinators Network

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.



Sound Health/Care

Safe Homes

Caring Communities

Informed Parents

Every family deserves a strong start.

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.
