

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH NEWSLETTER

MCH Director Communiqué

In his book, *Right Place, Right Time: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing a Home for the Second Half of Life*, Ryan Frederick challenges readers to develop a discipline of choosing the right place at the right time. Sports require skill and training, but many times victory comes down to being in the right place at the right time to make a big play. Some of the best (and funniest) photos are the result of being in the right place at just the right time to capture the perfect picture.

Nurses learn the “five rights” of medication administration, the right patient, right drug, right time, right dose and right route, as the standard of practice for safe medication practices. In contrast to these examples of the influence of the right place at the right time on outcomes, the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model is health care focused on the individual and his/her needs to assure the right care, at the right time, in the right place. According to the CDC, the PCMH model is a team-based approach to delivering high quality, cost-effective, patient-centered, culturally appropriate and coordinated care across the health system.

Comprehensive care for children in a “medical home” is the standard of pediatric practice, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) specifies

seven qualities essential to the medical home model: accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective. A medical home extends beyond the four walls of a clinical practice. It includes specialty care, educational services, family support and more and is delivered within the context of a trusting and collaborative relationship between the child’s family and a competent health professional familiar with the child, family and the child’s health history. The PCMH model has been associated with effective chronic disease management, early diagnosis of disabling conditions, increased patient and provider satisfaction, cost savings, improved quality of care and appropriate preventive care and immunizations.

A medical home is especially beneficial for children and youth with special health care needs due to their complex care coordination needs. Missouri’s Title V Maternal Child Health state action plan aims to ensure coordinated, comprehensive and ongoing health care services for children with and without special health care needs by increasing the number of children with and without special health care needs who have a medical home.

The PCMH is health care the way it should be - easy to access, patient-centered, community based and focused on quality – a model that is both revolutionary and old fashioned but right for Missouri right now, regardless.

Martha J. Smith, MSN, RN
Missouri MCH/Title V Director

To learn more about Medical Home:

- [Why the Medical Home Works: A Framework](#)
- [How care of children and families is changing](#)
- [How to respond to the change](#)

MCH Director Communiqué	1
Program Highlights	2
Program Spotlight	5

News of Note	8
Save the Date	9
MCH Resources and Tools	10

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MCH Leadership Team Updates

The MCH Leadership Team welcomes two new team members: Andrea Tray and Kyle Jenkins.



ANDREA TRAY
CYSHCN DIRECTOR

Andrea Tray is the new Children and Youth Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Director, effective October 2, 2023. Andrea previously served as a Senior Research/Data Analyst in the Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Epidemiology. Andrea is excited to step into her new role, learn more about Title V programs and processes, build relationships with programs and stakeholders, and, most importantly, help a population she loves. Andrea has personal experience with the CYSHCN population, as her three-year-old son, Preston, was born a micro-preemie, spent over four months in the NICU, and has experienced long-term complications from his prematurity. Andrea understands the daily struggles of families of CYSHCN and looks forward to elevating family and youth voices in her work. She and her husband, Ryan, have been married for four years. They also have three dogs and two cats, making a very full and fun house. Andrea enjoys taking her family to community festivals, being a Swiftie, doing craft projects and all things home décor.



KYLE JENKINS
MCH Administrative
Assistant

Kyle Jenkins became the Maternal Child Health Administrative Assistant as of Oct 16, 2023. Kyle worked in a temporary position with DHSS during the pandemic and is excited to return to the department. He most recently worked at the Department of Revenue, where he managed accounts, provided customer service and performed data entry. Kyle looks forward to learning more about what DHSS offers to the community. Outside of work, Kyle enjoys attending church and spending time with his wife, three kids and two dogs. He enjoys playing video games, writing, recording and releasing music. In fact, he has four singles out now, available on YouTube or wherever you listen to music.

Office of Dental Health Partners with Uzazi Village to Provide Dental Care for Pregnant Women

Poor dental health during pregnancy is linked to preterm delivery, low birth weight and other complications. Providing dental care to pregnant women can promote positive pregnancy outcomes. For example, if a pregnant woman has gum inflammation during pregnancy, dental care can reduce the gum inflammation and decrease the risk of pre-term labor by 50%.

The Office of Dental Health (ODH) is partnering with Uzazi village in Kansas City to provide dental care to pregnant and postpartum women. Uzazi Village is a non-profit organization that offers perinatal health care to racially diverse, underserved pregnant women, most of whom are eligible for Medicaid benefits for pregnant women. A dental provider in the Kansas City area has agreed to provide dental care at Uzazi Village twice a month, seeing an average of eight women per day. The ODH collaborated with the MCH Leadership Team to coordinate the donation of some of the dental equipment needed for the clinic and the purchase of smaller equipment and supplies. The equipment was delivered on June 23, and dental services, billable to MO HealthNet, are now available onsite.

The Office of Dental Health Collaborates with the School Health Program

The Office of Dental Health (ODH) also partnered with the School Health Program (SHP) to distribute dental trauma kits to schools. Supported with Title V MCH Block Grant funding, the ODH purchased items to assemble and distribute over 3,000 kits. The kits include items for many common dental emergencies, including:

- Containers to safely transport knocked-out permanent teeth to the dentist for re-implantation.
- Items to control bleeding and remove objects lodged between teeth.
- Wax for children with broken braces or wires.
- Dental trauma handbook for reference during dental emergencies.
- Other valuable materials for school nurses to use in a dental emergency.

The kits are either hand delivered when ODH staff are in the area or shipped to schools.

Missouri Maternal Health Action Network Updates

The Missouri Maternal Health Action Network held its first in-person Summit in Columbia on Aug. 22, 2023. The summit was organized by the University of Missouri - Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD) through a contract with the Title V MCH Block Grant. The meeting centered on the voices of mothers with lived experience and included a story rewrite, a highlight of statewide programs and small group discussions.

The story rewrites and group discussions identified barriers experienced by mothers affected by substance use disorders (SUD) and developed strategies to enhance the delivery and navigation of support services. Mothers with lived experience provided insight into barriers affecting their ability to receive needed services. They highlighted stigma as a continuous obstacle to access to support services and one's readiness to seek help.

Attendees developed strategies to improve support systems for mothers and children affected by SUD. A few key strategies included:

- Listening to the voices of lived experience.
- Increasing communication across systems.
- Cross-collaboration and coordination of services.
- Providing stigma-free and trauma-informed services.
- Involving communities to offer wraparound services.

Darrell Missey, director of the Department of Social Services (DSS) Children's Division (CD), provided an overview of the CD's robust plan for system reform, detailing a proactive prevention process to keep children from entering foster care. Missouri currently ranks 5th in the nation in the number of foster children per capita. The CD plans to deliver upstream prevention by engaging at-risk families, providing alternative avenues to the hotline, identifying and/or creating community resources and using less invasive interventions. You can read more about the children's division plan [here](#).

The Action Network will continue to foster effective cross-system collaboration to enhance service delivery for mothers affected by SUD. The Action Network will have collaborative region-specific discussions to connect local organizations and service providers and address gaps in healthcare access within different regions in the coming months. If you would like to participate, please complete the [Region Meeting Availability Poll](#). In addition, the Action Network will partner with mothers with lived experience to create a Mother's Advocacy Network for mothers further along on their recovery journey. The goal is to provide a capacity-building opportunity for mothers affected by SUD to participate as partners at the decision-making table.

You can find more information about the action network in previous editions of the newsletter and by visiting the Action website at moactionnetwork.org. If you have any questions about the action network, contact Danielle Chiang, PhD, Principal Investigator, at mo_actionnetwork@umkc.edu.



SHCN Family Partnership Retreat

The Family Partnership Program in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Bureau of Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) hosted a parent and caregiver retreat in Columbia, Missouri, on August 25 and 26. Attendees included 85 parents/caregivers, three professionals and eight exhibitors. Presentations included sibling's perspective, Missouri MO HealthNet, Department of Mental Health waivers, individualized health care plans and the medical home. The retreat brought about multiple success stories of families connecting and learning. A few of these stories are outlined below. Some families were unaware of programs that assist children and youth with special health care needs, including the Family Partnership Program, and were excited to learn about available resources. If you would like to learn more about the Family Partnership Program, [click here](#).

A highlight of some success stories:

"Some of the biggest successes from this retreat were the family networking connections. Everyone seemed so excited to engage with other families. I kept seeing people move around table to table to network with others instead of staying at just one table the whole time. The best example of networking from my region were two families who met for the first time. After realizing that they lived in the southeast region only an hour from each other, they kept on talking and bonding. When the retreat ended, the families decided to go out to dinner. While at the retreat, the moms started a Facebook page for families in Southeast Missouri with children with SHCN's and started inviting other members to join the group. I thought it was such a wonderful story since it shows them using self-advocacy and helping by including other Missourians."

"After talking with a few different families at the retreat, we realized that several of us lived within 15 minutes of each other. A couple of the families are making plans to start meeting up for coffee and chat. They plan to spread the word to other special needs families and hope to start networking with new families they haven't met."

"During one of my long conversations with a family, I made some suggestions on how they could handle a situation with their child's school. Within the next week, they ran with my suggestions and were able to get their child the technology they needed."

"I connected a CYSHCN Service Coordinator with a Family Partner that had experience with getting the school district to pay for a private duty nurse for her daughter. This connection then led to initiating a new resource event (Education Station) in the northwest region of the state."

Join Our MCH Stakeholder Contact List

If you are not already on the Missouri DHSS Maternal Child Health stakeholder contact list, we invite you to take a few minutes to complete the MCH stakeholder contact list survey.



The survey can be accessed [here](#).



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

School Health Program, Bureau of Community Health and Wellness

What is the purpose of the School Health Program?

The School Health Program (SHP) within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services collaborates with various other programs serving the maternal and child population, such as the Office of Dental Health, the Bureau of Immunizations, the Injury Prevention Program and the Maternal Child Health Services Program.

The SHP is a statewide program that provides technical assistance and supports workforce development for school nurses and other professionals working in the school setting. The SHP offers free workshops such as the Health Office Orientation (for new school nurses and office health staff) and the Lead School Nurse Collaborative. The SHP programming emphasizes preparing school nurses to respond to the needs of students with chronic health conditions and/or special health care needs.

Whom do you partner with to implement School Health Program initiatives and improve the health of children, adolescents, and families?

Outside of the DHSS, the SHP partners with a variety of stakeholders, including the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Social Services, academic institutions (the University of Missouri, Truman State University, Southeast Missouri University, St. Louis University, and Washington University), the two primary children's hospitals, the Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Missouri School Boards' Association, and the Missouri Rural Education Association. The SHP staff also serve on statewide committees for Child Abuse and Neglect, the Center for Education Safety, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, the Suicide Prevention (988) initiative, and the CDC Healthy Schools Grant. To identify priority needs and develop needed guidelines and educational webinars and workshops, the SHP engages with school nurses across the state through surveys.

How do you support school health staff?

The SHP supports school health staff in the following ways:

- Weekly email blasts to over 1,800 school health staff registered to receive the *News You Can Use* updates. The short messages share new resources and upcoming professional development opportunities.
- Hosting a one-hour webinar, titled *Nurse Education Webinar Series (NEWS)*, every Tuesday during the school year.
- The State School Health Nurse Consultant serves as a subject matter expert on two ECHOs (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes): the Autism Behavior Solutions ECHO for school staff and the Show Me School Health ECHO.
- Develop and disseminate guidelines based on evidence-based practices for school nurses, administrators, and parents.

What is the School Health Program currently working on, and/or what do you hope to accomplish next year?

The SHP has several new projects for the 23-24 school year.

1. The program will use workforce development funding to:
 - Support 210 school nurses to sit for the National School Nurse Certification exam.
 - Sponsor 40 regional Poverty Simulations targeting school staff.
2. Seven school districts will engage a multidisciplinary team (medical provider, school nurse, school administrator, school social worker or counselor, and a member from the local public health department) to assess their school district's policies related to physical and mental health services in the school setting. The AAP sponsors the initiative and utilizes the TEAMS (Training, Education, Assessment, Mentoring, and Support) framework.

continued on page 6

3. The SHP is offering a unique opportunity for schools with unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) or licensed practical nurses not credentialed to work independently to receive onsite and virtual supervision, professional development, and necessary health room equipment and resources from a registered nurse. Through this program, 20,597 students receive more advanced care, and 91 health office staff receive supervision and support.
4. The SHP is working with APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) to develop an online toolkit for infection control best practices. Modules will be designed for parents, students, support staff, teachers and administrators.
5. The SHP is collaborating with the University of Missouri to develop a website (showmeschoolhealth.org) for school health professionals. The website will help ensure that school nurses: 1) have the clinical skills to provide safe care to students with special health care needs, including acute and chronic health conditions, 2) feel more competent in delivering specialized health care in the school setting, and 3) can assertively delegate health care procedures to UAP. In turn, the UAP will be more confident in delivering student care. The website also provides the “Just in Time” (JIT) resources, which offer a quick review of a specialized health care procedure, such as tracheostomy suctioning or tube feeding. It includes video instructions, suggested guidelines, and training and delegation forms.

How can people engage with and/or know more about your program?

The SHP website includes program, resource and contact information. [Click here](#) to learn more.

School Health Highlights 2023

- Approximately 80 school nurses attended a 20-hour in-person Health Office Orientation July 12-14, 2023. The program included lectures on content specific to school nursing and provided hands-on training for vision and hearing screenings, diabetes and asthma management. The evaluations for this program were overwhelmingly positive. Ninety-eight percent of those surveyed stated they would utilize the resources provided in their school nursing practice. One participant said, “This was an absolutely AMAZING resource for me as a new school nurse. I walked into this with no idea what to expect, and this answered so many of my questions and has honestly made me feel 10x more prepared. I really appreciate all the work you all put into this and the time you’ve given to us.”
- Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, N.E.W.S. offered 25 sessions with an average attendance of 100 participants. Subjects included suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, drug awareness, supporting students who have experienced trauma, diabetes management, oral health, vaping cessation and immunizations. Session evaluations showed:
 - » 96.7% of attendees found the information presented relevant to school health practice.
 - » 97.4% of attendees felt they learned new information.
 - » 98.7% of attendees would recommend these trainings to others.
- The SHP developed a program modeled after the CDC/AAP framework for TEAMS named MO KIDS TEAMS (Missouri Keeping Infectious Diseases out of Schools through Training Education Assessment Mentoring and Support). Since 2022, 17 school districts have used this program to assess their infection control policies and practices. Changes at the local level have ranged from tracking infectious disease outbreaks to organizing community vaccine clinics, developing and adopting diapering procedures and developing protocols for connecting students with possible infectious symptoms to evaluation and treatment.
- School nurses reported an increase in the number of visits to their health office related to anxiety and depression. There was also an increase in children hospitalized for a mental health emergency returning to school without a re-entry plan. Supported by Title V MCH Block Grant funding, the SHP formed a learning collaborative for school nurses, social workers and counselors to explore intra-professional learning and collaboration. Outcomes included an increase in 1) school districts with a mental health re-entry plan, 2) knowledge of strategies to engage families and 3) cross-discipline meetings to respond to students’ unique needs.



continued on page 7

Share a success story from your School Health Program initiatives.

Through our work around providing supervision and support to school health offices, we have received several updates that prove to us the importance of our work. Our contractor shared the following stories:

“The health aide that we were working with was discussing managing students with chronic conditions. During our conversation, she asked if we could assist with getting hearing aids for a student that was deaf. I asked if he was connected with services and the School for the Deaf. He was not, so we worked to get him hearing aids and get him connected with the School for the Deaf. He now receives services to help him learn for the first time in his life.”

“This week, a nurse shared her concern about a student with asthma having a lot of difficulty breathing. When she called the mom, the mom said it was normal that the albuterol doesn’t help. After the nurse asked more questions, she realized the student didn’t have a spacer, so they had made one out of a Gatorade bottle. Due to the training and equipment we have supplied, the nurse was able to provide the student with a spacer and the mom with the education to talk to the doctor and receive preventative medicine. The student reports feeling better than ever. The student thought difficult breathing was normal, but now there is a new healthy normal.”

Meet the School Health Team!



Marjorie Cole
State School Nurse
Consultant



Tammy Kelley
School Health Data
Coordinator



Ben Pringer
School Health Program
Specialist

NEWS OF NOTE

Missouri Enacts Changes to the Childhood Lead Testing Requirements

On August 28, 2023, RSMo 701.340-701.349 changes were enacted regarding blood lead testing of children. Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin, and low doses of lead from paint dust and corroded water pipes can cause lasting damage, including reduced IQ, behavior disorders, and increased risk of mortality from cardiovascular disease.

These revised blood lead testing requirements are based on age and risk factors rather than just geographical location. Previously, all Missouri children younger than six who lived in, or spent more than 10 hours per week in, areas deemed high risk were required to be tested for elevated blood lead every year. Children not at increased risk were screened for potential lead exposure with a questionnaire and tested if necessary. With the revised lead testing requirements, all children aged six months to six years of age shall be screened with a risk assessment tool, and if a risk is identified, the child shall be offered lead testing. In addition, all parents of children aged one to three years of age shall receive education on lead poisoning.

Parents will be offered to have their child tested for lead poisoning annually. If you have questions about the changes or would like additional information, please contact Teresa Wortmann, MSN, RN, at 573-751-4718.

Updates in Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporter Training

The Missouri Mandated Reporter Training is created for professionals working with children and is designed to empower adults to report any suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect. The training is self-paced; participants should allow themselves one to three hours to complete. At the end of the training, professionals should be able to recognize signs or indicators of abuse/neglect, understand their legal roles and responsibilities, learn appropriate ways to respond to a child's disclosure and familiarize themselves with the hotline process.

Missouri KidsFirst manages the Online Mandated Reporter training and has recently updated the training with content on:

- The scope of child abuse/neglect in Missouri.
- Reporting bias and cultural responsiveness when reporting.
- Interactive learning scenario on the difference between poverty and neglect.
- Frequently asked questions about the hotline unit.

The online training is free and approved for continuing education credits. For more information, Visit the [protectmokids website](#).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Launches New Initiatives to Address the Maternal Health Crisis

As part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Maternal Health Day of Action, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced several new actions to address the nation's longstanding maternal health crisis. Secretary Becerra announced that HHS is awarding more than \$103 million to expand access to maternal health, forming a new task force to address maternal mental health conditions and co-occurring factors, including SUD.

The Task Force on Maternal Mental Health will identify, evaluate and make recommendations to coordinate and improve federal activities related to data and health equity, as well as identify and create a strategy to implement best practices around prevention, screening and diagnosis; evidence-based intervention and treatment; evidence-based community practices and communications and community engagement. There will be a focus on mental health equity and trauma-informed practices. To learn more, visit the [HHS webpage](#).

continued on page 9

SAVE THE DATE

AMCHP and AAP: Virtual Learning Café on Pediatric Mental Health

Dec. 7, 2023 | Virtual | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CT

Learn how Title V is addressing the youth mental health crisis! AMCHP and the American Academy of Pediatrics are hosting a virtual learning café series to increase awareness of community-based mental health support available to children, youth and families. Each learning café will include a short didactic presentation, followed by peer-to-peer discussion and questions. Presenters will include representatives from state MCH/Title V programs, Pediatric Mental Health Care Access programs and pediatric primary care professionals. Register [here](#) for the second virtual café. The final two sessions of the four-part series will occur in early 2024.

2024 Missouri Coordinated School Health

Feb. 21-23, 2024 | In-person | Lake Ozark, MO

The Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition (MCSHC) would like to welcome you to the 31st Annual Conference. The conference attracts participants, ranging in backgrounds from health teachers, school nurses, wellness coordinators, food service staff and public health partners to counselors, social workers, physical educators and school administrators. Join MCSHC and showcase your organization all while networking with the people working tirelessly behind the scenes to make Missouri schools healthier. Register [here](#).

2024 AMCHP Annual Conference

April 13-16, 2024 | Virtual and In-person | Oakland, CA

The AMCHP Annual Conference is one of the country's largest gatherings of MCH professionals. Every year, the conference aims to highlight the impact MCH programs are making at all levels for women, children, and families and to provide participants with tools and resources to develop, enhance, and sustain vital MCH programs and services. The 2024 conference theme will be Partnering with Purpose, and attendees will discuss strategies to engage with partners to make a positive impact on children and families. You can learn more about the conference [here](#).

News of Note continued from page 8

Office on Women's Health Announces New Campaign Addressing Postpartum Depression



The Office on Women's Health in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) recently launched a new national campaign, "Talking Postpartum Depression". The campaign, which is part of the HHS initiative to address the Maternal Health Crisis, aims to educate women about and encourage them to seek help for postpartum depression (PPD). The campaign includes a toolkit of ready-to-use resources, including fact sheets for women, their support networks, and health care professionals, video and written testimonials from women who have experienced PPD, social media assets, and more. You can learn more about the campaign by visiting the [OASH webpage](#).

MCH Previous Newsletters



MCH RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Missouri DHSS MCH-related Dashboards

- [Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System \(PRAMS\)](#)
- [Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review \(PAMR\)](#)
- [Early Hearing Detection & Intervention \(EHDI\)](#)
- [Maternal Levels of Care](#)

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

- Influenza, Tdap, and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Hesitancy Among Pregnant Women — United States, April 2023; <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7239a4>
- COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations and Practices for Women of Reproductive Age by Health Care Providers — Fall DocStyles Survey, United States, 2022; <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7239a1>
- Pneumococcal Vaccine for Adults Aged ≥19 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2023; <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7203a1>
- QuickStats: Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Substance Use Disorders Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years, by Age Group — National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 2018–2019 and 2020–2021; <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7239a6>

AMCHP: MCH Bridges Podcast

MCH Bridges is designed to help listeners create new connections to MCH leaders, organizations, and ideas as well as inspire and guide listeners towards actions that will improve the systems that impact MCH populations. You can catch up on previous episodes of the Podcast [here](#).

Mental Health Hotlines

- Missouri 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS-Maternal Mental Health Hotline



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant
P.O. Box 570 • Jefferson City, MO 65102

Health.Mo.Gov

You received this message because you are identified as a maternal child health stakeholder. This newsletter is produced quarterly by the MCH/Title V team at the Department of Health and Senior Services. Email Nina.nganga@health.mo.gov to request inclusion of your event, resource or update in our eNewsletter.