



CO Association for Infant Mental Health Newsletter

July 2010

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Dear Holly,

Welcome to the July edition of our COAIMH e-newsletter. We hope you find this month's newsletter full of beneficial ECMH related information.

In this edition you will find another CO ECMH program highlight, a training opportunity, spotlight on Colorado's ECMH systems work, and an update on Colorado's Fussy Baby Network. Finally, don't miss out on your chance to tell us what types of professional development we can bring to you in the near future! For your voice to be heard, complete our very brief survey at the end of the newsletter.

Sincerely and on behalf of the COAIMH Executive Committee

Holly Wilcher
303-355-5205

Colorado's ECMH Efforts Highlighted by The Commonwealth Fund

A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund investigates ECMH systems of care in four states: CO, IN, MA and RI. COAIMH is even mentioned! The report shares state profiles, lessons learned, and examples of major projects and explores model practices states can use to enhance services and improve policies. The study focuses on change processes and identified common innovative strategies. The report concludes by summarizing the value of creating a national vision of infant and early childhood mental health systems of

care, where child and family wellbeing is supported and their needs are met early on in life.

Training on Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood

September 2 - 3, 2010

Anschutz Medical Campus
Room to be announced closer to the event
Aurora CO 80045



The Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health And Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, Revised (DC:0-3R) enhances your ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental health problems in the earliest years by identifying and describing disorders not addressed in other classification systems and by pointing the way to effective intervention approaches.

Mental health clinicians, counselors, physicians, nurses, early interventionists, early childhood educators, and researchers will find DC:0-3R to be an indispensable guide to evaluation and treatment planning with infants, toddlers, and their families in a wide range of settings. For more information, go to <http://www.zerotothree.org>.

Day 1: Overview - This session will provide an overview of the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, Revised (DC:0-3R), which was created to address the lack of and the need for an appropriate system for diagnosing children in the first three years of life. This diagnostic system focuses on young children's experience, particularly their emotional and developmental problems and adaptive functioning.

Day 2: Intensive Case Discussion

- This presentation will prepare early childhood clinicians to utilize the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, Revised (DC:0-3R), by providing in-depth discussion of the classification system and its five axes. Participants will discuss cases of young children using a case presentation.

Audience: The overview and case discussion training will focus on assessment and diagnosis of mental health issues in young children.

Cost: Day 1 - Overview \$130; Day 2 - Intensive Case Discussion \$80;

Day 1 and Day 2 - Full Introductory Training \$200.

Reduced rate for students or interns is \$100 for the Full Introductory Training or \$65 for the Overview.

Meals: Costs include breakfast and lunch on Day 1, Breakfast only on Day 2.

Registration deadline **August 16, 2010**.

Click [here](#) for registration and more detailed information.



Colorado Early Childhood Mental Health Program Spotlight: *Devereux Early Childhood Initiative*

The DECA Program is a strength-based system designed to promote resilience in children ages 2-5. Through the program, early childhood professionals and families learn specific strategies to support young children's social and emotional well-being and to enhance the overall quality of early childhood programs. The DECA Program focuses first on building quality environments through

Universal interventions that promote positive behaviors in all children. For those children who are at-risk because of low protective factors, teachers learn to implement **Targeted** strategies in the classroom setting. For those children who need additional services at the **Expanded** level, the Clinical version of the assessment (DECA-C) is available.

DECA Program Underlying Principles

- 1. The DECA Program is child-centered.** The assessment, classroom strategies, family partnerships, and follow-up efforts respond to children's individual characteristics and acknowledge the role of families and communities in child development.
- 2. The DECA Program is strength-based.** The DECA identifies a child's strengths related to within child protective factors. DECA results are used to set goals for each child. Teachers develop individualized plans for achieving the goals using strategies that build on the strengths of a child and family.
- 3. The DECA Program encourages partnerships between teachers and families.** Families and teachers each complete the DECA for a child and jointly review the results. They collaborate to develop, implement, and evaluate individualized plans to address a child's goals and support development at home and in the

classroom.

4. The DECA Program recommends strategies that fit within an early childhood program's current practices. The DECA and the suggested strategies are developmentally appropriate. Plans can be implemented in a child's classroom and home as a part of established daily routines, activities, and experiences.

5. The DECA Program supports effective collaborations. Families, teachers, and specialists share knowledge and work as a team to understand and address a child's needs.

6. The DECA Program stresses the importance of being data-driven early care and education professionals. Throughout the year, staff use multiple sources to collect data about their program practices and about each child's skills, interests, needs, and other relevant characteristics. They use this information to complete the DECA and to plan for individuals and the group.

Click [here](#) for more information on DECA and how to receive training.

Fussy Baby Network Colorado Update

Stacey Bromberg

The Irving Harris Program in Colorado is proud to announce the start of Fussy Baby Network Colorado. In collaboration with the Kempe Foundation, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Rose Community Foundation, they have successfully launched a replication of the Erikson Institute's Fussy Baby Network's program to provide prevention, support, and intervention services for families who struggle with infant crying.

Fussy Baby Network Colorado will combine the traditional services of the Erikson *FBN* with a unique component of serving babies and families in a primary care clinic setting. Their warm line is live and website are up and running as of July 15th, 2010 and they are well on their way to developing their home visitation and primary care programs.



Here is a Fussy Baby Network CO team picture from our first meeting. From left to right, Karen Frankel, Stacey

Bromberg, Susan Heubner, Antonia Chiese, Ayelet Talmi, Jennifer Paul.

Infant Toddler Mental Health Specialist Job Announcement

Catholic Charities Early Head Start is looking for an **Infant/Toddler Mental Health Specialist**.

See our [Professional Opportunities](#) link on our website for more information.

Do you have an ECMH related employment opportunity to post? Email us your job announcement and we will be happy to post it on our website.

Joining the Rest of the Social Networking World...

COAIMH now has a Facebook page. Log on to [Facebook](#) and search "Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health" and click "like" to add as a friend. This page is a place to discuss or pose ECMH related questions, leave a message or suggestion for us on our "wall", post your favorite COAIMH event photos, or simply grow your ECMH network in Colorado! We welcome you to come and be a part of this quickly growing online network of ECMH professionals.

COAIMH Feedback Survey

We recently sent you a survey to complete. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete it!

The brief, five question, survey was developed to help us identify ways to support your early childhood mental health professional development needs. COAIMH will use the survey information to provide quarterly lectures/seminars and a 2011 bi-annual conference that best reflects your professional development needs and priorities.

If you haven't had the chance to complete the survey, would like to, and have two minutes to spare, there is still time! Click [here](#) to complete.

We will be sharing the survey results with you in our August 2010 e-newsletter!