

November 2009

CoAIMH
Colorado Association for
Infant Mental Health



COAIMH November Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear COAIMH Members and Friends,

At this time of year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the months that have passed and look forward to a holiday season filled with festivities and joy. Please join the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health for our Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday December 1, 2009 at 6:00 PM. We will have the opportunity to reflect on 2009 and usher in 2010 by welcoming new Officers and Advisory Board Members to COAIMH. In addition you will have the opportunity to meet Ms. Evelyn Wotherspoon, who I continually find a delight to work with and a wealth of experience and information. See below in the newsletter for details.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ted Gaensbauer, a prominent infant psychiatrist and faculty member of the Irving Harris Program in Child Development and Infant Mental Health, is joining our Advisory Board. Ted brings a wealth of expertise in clinical work, teaching, and research with infants and young children. We welcome Ted and look forward to working with him to advance infant/early childhood mental health efforts across the State. Please see the website for Ted's biography.

We are also very pleased to announce that Ms. Karen Mooney has also agreed to join our advisory board. Ms. Mooney is the Women's Treatment Coordinator for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the Colorado Department of Human Services. She has many years of experience working with women and children whose lives are affected by substance abuse. Ms. Mooney has worked at the National level to highlight the special service needs of women and children and advocating with Child Welfare and the Justice Systems. Her experience and expertise will be invaluable to COAIMH.

COAIMH election surveys will be emailed out to current members. Please be sure to complete the electronic survey promptly. Voting will include selection of new Officers and proposed changes to the bylaws. We will announce election results at the Annual Business meeting.

Important Dates

December 1st: COAIMH
Annual Meeting
5:30 Appetizers, 6:00
Business Meeting,
Speaker Evelyn
Wotherspoon to follow

December 2nd:
WONDERbabies
Stakeholder's Forum
8:30

February 12th: Teach-In
with Dr. Linda Gilkerson
Time To Be Announced

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Membership reminder: Members are required to renew their membership each calendar year. Renew your COAIMH membership before or at the annual business meeting and pay 2009 rates. Rates increase as of January 1, 2010. Membership applications must be received by December 31, 2009 to be eligible. Applications can be downloaded from the website.

Don't forget to check the COAIMH website, www.coaimh.org, for news and information about happenings in Colorado and across the globe. The online calendar includes numerous events and professional development opportunities. If you would like to post events to the calendar, please email Holly Wilcher at Holly.Wilcher@ccd.edu.

On behalf of the COAIMH Executive Committee, I wish you all happy holidays and a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to being together in 2010.

Warm regards,



Ayelet Talmi, PhD
President, COAIMH

COAIMH ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC SURVEYS COMING YOUR WAY

Nominations are in and members will be sent an electronic survey as a ballot to vote for officers for our executive committee. This survey will be open to members from **November 18 to 25, 2009**. Officers will serve a two-year term on the Executive Committee. In addition, members will be asked to vote on by-law changes. When you get your survey, please vote quickly, as the election window is very short. Final results will be announced at the December 1st Annual Meeting.

COAIMH SPECIAL PRESENTATION & ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for COAIMH's Annual Business Meeting on **Tuesday December 1, 2009 at 6:00 PM** in The Children's Hospital Conference Center. Hearty and filling appetizers will be served at **5:30 pm**, and the meeting will start promptly at 6. Discussion will include an overview of accomplishments in 2009, election results, installation of new Advisory Board Members, and a financial report. Our keynote speaker, Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, RSW, will be presenting a talk entitled: ***Talking to Child Welfare and Justice Systems about Infant Mental Health***. She has a wealth of experience in communicating essential information about infant mental health to child welfare and justice system professionals. The evening promises to provide lots of opportunity for education and networking.

WEBSTREAM FOR DECEMBER 1ST ANNUAL MEETING

Yes, finally, we have been able to get a webstream site for our colleagues who live outside the Denver Metro Area. We have heard your requests and been working to get the information set up soon enough so that you can plan ahead and participate via the Internet. We will get you more details as soon as we can wring them from the Technical Assistance gurus. Meanwhile, please plan to join us at this address: <mms://esslive3.uchsc.edu:1800>

WONDERbabies Second Annual Stakeholder's FORUM

On December 2, 2009, Ms. Wotherspoon will be the keynote presenter at the WONDERbabies 2nd Annual Stakeholders' Community Forum: Risk, Resiliency, and Resources for Babies, Young Children and their Families. Ms. Wotherspoon will share her expertise in emotional trauma in infancy, social-emotional development of infants and toddlers, and the child welfare system. The conference includes a presentation on medical homes for babies and young children with special health care and developmental needs. Space is limited. Registration: www.jfkpartners.org/Workshops.asp.

PYRAMID MODEL NEWS

The Pyramid Model is becoming well-known in Colorado as a framework for supporting early childhood mental health in care and education settings. As more and more schools implement "Positive Behavior Supports", the Pyramid Model is being seen by some as the PBS for Early Childhood. This is wonderful news, because so often schools try to extend programs that are not designed for Early Childhood into their early childhood programs. The Pyramid Model was designed for the special developmental needs of infants and young children. It is based on evidence-based practices developed by two national, federally-funded research and training centers, the Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the Technical Assistance Center for Social and Emotional Intervention (TACSEI). The websites for these organizations have a wealth of information that is well written and easy to download and use. The following is taken from the TACSEI website:

The Pyramid Model builds upon a tiered public health approach to providing universal supports to all children to promote wellness, targeted services to those who need more support, and intensive services to those who need them.

- **Yellow Foundation:** The foundation for all of the practices in the pyramid are the **systems and policies** necessary to ensure a workforce able to adopt and sustain these evidence-based practices.
- **Blue Tier: Universal supports** for all children through nurturing and responsive relationships and high quality environments.
- **Green Tier: Prevention** which



Click the image to view a larger version of the Pyramid Model

represents practices that are targeted social emotional strategies to prevent problems.

- **Red Tier: Intervention** which is comprised of practices related to individualized intensive interventions.

Here in Colorado, an RFP was recently awarded to found a Center to support the social and emotional development of young children and the inclusion of all children in early care and learning environments. The center is called ***Pyramid Plus: The Colorado Center for Social Emotional Competence and Inclusion*** and is housed with the University of Colorado Denver.

The Pyramid Plus Center is funded by three Colorado Department of Human Services divisions: Division of Child Care, Division for Developmental Disabilities, Early Intervention Program (Part C), and Division of Behavioral Health.

The goal of the Center is to promote children's social and emotional competence. The Center plans to do this by insuring that two highly effective educational models are faithfully implemented in early care and education settings:

- The Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children (website coming in January of 2010).
- The SpecialQuest Birth-Five Approach to Early Childhood Inclusion [Colorado Special Quest](#)

PYRAMID MODEL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE: FREE RESOURCE

If you are interested in more information on the Pyramid Model, please check out this free resource:

[Pyramid Model Implementation Guide](#)

This is an implementation guide developed by the Pyramid Model Partnership Team. It is a 28-page comprehensive and very user-friendly guide with resource information invaluable to anyone thinking about how the Pyramid Model can fit in with their current resources to support early childhood social and emotional competence.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION NEWS

Congratulations to Claudia Zundel, one of COAIMH's Advisory Board, who was successful in a grant application to fund ECMHC in Colorado. This State Strategic Use Fund grant focuses on families who are eligible for TANF. The purpose of the grant is to develop a strategic and sustainable mental health consultation program that builds on partnerships between the mental health centers, departments of human services and the early childhood councils. Three regions were funded, covering about 22 counties. Ms. Zundel is promoting the concept of learning collaboratives to develop models based on the experiences of Kid Connects, Project BLOOM and Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. The grant includes technical assistance provided by Sarah Hoover of JFK Partners and an evaluation component led by Lorraine Kubicek, a founding member and Immediate Past President of COAIMH. For a review of six model programs across the USA, including Boulder's Kid Connects, see the Georgetown University [website](#).

SAVE THE DATE: COAIMH MEMBERS "TEACH-IN" FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Our biannual Teach-In will be a wonderful full-day with Dr. Linda Gilkerson. Some of you may have attended her workshop at our COAIMH conference last year. Professor Linda Gilkerson is director of both the Irving B. Harris Infant Studies Program and the Faculty Development Project on the Brain at the Erikson Institute. Her area of specialization is early intervention and her research

addresses the needs of infants and families in a range of settings including neonatal intensive care units, Early Head Start, childcare and early intervention. She also directs the Fussy Baby Network, Erikson's first clinical initiative. The network provides support for families who have concerns about their baby's crying, sleeping, feeding, or temperament. Our Teach-In will be an in-depth opportunity to learn from Dr. Gilkerson. We will be sending more information in our following bulletins.

ZERO TO THREE NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE: DECEMBER 4-6, 2009

We are proud to have several presenters from COAIMH and Colorado presenting at the prestigious Zero to Three National Training Institute this year in Dallas. Joy Browne and Ayelet Talmi have a symposium on evaluating and intervening with newborns and young infants with special health and developmental needs and their families. Stacey Bromberg, Karen Frankel and Christine Balentine have a workshop on working with high-risk mothers and babies, with a focus on mothers recovering from addiction in a residential treatment setting. Peggy Hill is presenting on new research and opportunities with the Nurse-Family Partnership. Donna Whitmer has a workshop on Infant and Toddler Peer Relationships. These professionals from Colorado are respected nationally. We are lucky to have them here in our community! We hope you can attend this wonderful conference in Dallas this year. If not, plan ahead for next year!

Thanks again for your continued interest in the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. We hope to see you all at our annual meeting or one of our events soon! For further information or to express any questions or concerns, please contact Betsy Rogers at BestyRogers@aumhc.org.

Sincerely,
Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health

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