

October 2009



# COAIMH October Newsletter

## Letter from the President

Dear COAIMH Members and Friends,

The Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health and our early childhood partners across the State have had a busy fall. The Early Childhood Progress and Possibilities conference on September 18, 2009 brought together over 200 early childhood stakeholders for an exciting day of presentations and information sharing. COAIMH and the Irving Harris Program for Child Development and Infant Mental Health presented on infant/early childhood mental health programs in each of the four key areas of the Early Childhood Framework. At our Quarterly Meeting on September 22nd, Holly Wilcher presented on the development of the Early Childhood Framework and participants learned about how infant/early childhood mental health programs fit into the Framework.

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Claudia Zundel, of the Department of Human Services, is joining our Advisory Board. Claudia brings leadership and expertise in systems of care and coordination of early childhood efforts to COAIMH. We welcome Claudia and look forward to working with her to advance infant/early childhood mental health efforts across the State. Please see the website for her biography and additional details.

All COAIMH members are invited to submit nominations for positions on the Executive Committee. Nominations are due November 13, 2009 (see details about the process in the current newsletter). Members will receive an electronic survey (November 18 - 25) to elect new officers and approve changes to the bylaws.

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](http://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](mailto:Holly.Wilcher@ccd.edu).

On behalf of the COAIMH Executive Committee, I wish you all a

## Important Dates

COAIMH Executive Committee nominations due November 13, 2009

COAIMH elections survey (electronic) open to members November 18 - 25, 2009.

COAIMH Annual meeting on Tuesday December 1, 2009 - Ms. Evelyn Wotherspoon will be presenting.

WONDERbabies Second Annual Stakeholder's Community Forum with keynote speaker, Ms. Evelyn Wotherspoon December 2, 2009.

Save the date for the COAIMH Biennial Members Only Teach-In with Dr. Linda Gilkerson on Friday February 12, 2010.

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healthy and productive transition to winter. For those of you interested in taking a more active role with COAIMH, please consider applying for a position on the Executive Committee or contacting us to let us know you'd like to be more involved.

Warm regards,



Ayelet Talmi, PhD  
President, COAIMH

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION (ECMHC): COLORADO PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED NATIONALLY

Across Colorado, communities are creatively putting to good use State Strategic Use Funds (SSUF) for Mental Health Consultation in Early Care and Education Settings under the leadership of Claudia Zundel in the State Departments of Child Care and Behavioral Health. The grants are supporting work that began over ten years ago in Colorado. While many Early Childhood Councils and Community Mental Health Centers have various levels of resources for Mental Health Consultation, one exceptional program, with a long history of data collection and a well-formulated program with replication guidelines, is Kid Connects in Boulder County.

Kid Connects' integrated health and mental health consultation program is one of six programs across the United States highlighted by the Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development's report on effective programs. Georgetown conducted a rigorous review of nationwide programs in order to shed light on the essential components of early childhood mental health consultation (ECMHC). The six programs selected for the final report demonstrated effectiveness supported by evaluation and outcome data. In addition to detailed descriptions of the six programs models of ECMHC, the report contains recommendations for policy makers/funders, ECMHC providers, and early childhood program administrators. Key research questions that can inform practices today are identified in the report. Link to the report at <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/78358.html>. For more information on Kid Connects please contact Jordana Ash at [Jash@mhcbbc.org](mailto:Jash@mhcbbc.org).

## COAIMH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

It is time for COAIMH to elect its new officers for the 2010-2012 term! We are accepting nominations for the four offices of President Elect, Vice President of Membership, Secretary, and Treasurer and are looking forward to your nominations.

Please submit your name, desired position, a short bio (1 paragraph), and brief (3-4 sentences) answers to the following questions by November 13, 2009 to Holly Wilcher ([Holly.Wilcher@ccd.edu](mailto:Holly.Wilcher@ccd.edu)).

- 1) Please tell us what attributes, skills and experience you have that make you qualified for the position you are seeking.
- 2) What impact do you hope to have in the position you are seeking?

There will be short window for elections via Survey Monkey online from November 18th -November

25th so be on the lookout for the upcoming email notification. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions regarding the elections.

THIS VOTE IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY SO JOIN NOW TO BE PART OF THE ELECTION PROCESS! Membership forms and information are posted on [our website](#). You must be a 2009 member to vote.

## EVELYN WOTHERSPOON TO GRACE COLORADO WITH TWO EVENTS IN DECEMBER



We are delighted to have Evelyn Wotherspoon in Colorado this December. She will be presenting at two events: the COAIMH Annual Meeting on Dec. 1st and the Wonderbabies Annual Forum on Dec. 2nd. Please see this newsletter for details on those events. Evelyn Wotherspoon is a social worker and Zero To Three fellow who is an infant mental health consultant for the Calgary Health Region. She has spent over 25 years working with high risk families as a child welfare investigator, supervisor and clinician. She has contributed to the Infant Mental Health Journal, the Zero To Three Journal (as writer and guest editor), Social Work with Groups, Calgary's Child, Western Parent, and Canadian Parent. She has given presentations on the needs of maltreated infants throughout the United States and Canada to such groups

as the Zero To Three National Training Institute, the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children Child Psychotherapy day, the Alberta and the Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists, the Canadian Childcare Federation, the Association for the Treatment and Training of Attachment in Children, the University of British Columbia department of continuing education, and others. She has contributed to the development of a framework for infant mental health consultation with the high risk environment of a child protection service.

### COAIMH ANNUAL MEETING: A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

December 1, 2009  
The Children's Hospital  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
13123 East 16th Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80045

Members: Free  
Non-Members: \$10  
Discounted Membership for 2010 will be available at the meeting.

5:30PM - Very Nice and Filling Appetizers and Networking  
6:00PM - Short Business Meeting and Installation of New Officers  
6:15PM - Evelyn Wotherspoon - social worker and Zero to Three Fellow

Please join us for this very special guest speaker.

### WONDERbabies 2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Featured Speaker: Evelyn Wotherspoon  
December 2, 2009  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Anschutz Medical Campus, Education 2 South Building  
13121 E. 17th Avenue, 1st Floor, Room 1102  
Aurora CO 80045

Registration required. Please go to Lectures and Workshops at [www.jfkpartners.org](http://www.jfkpartners.org)

The purpose of the Forum will be to educate the community on the complex issues involved in creating a medical home and an integrated system of care for high risk infants and their families. Topics to be covered include: social-emotional development of infants and toddlers in foster care, emotional trauma in infancy, infant mental health consultation in child welfare, and creating medical homes.

This forum is intended for family members, students and professionals who have vested interest in infants and young children with special health care and developmental needs. WONDERbabies partners include: Family Voices Colorado, Anchor Center for Blind Children, JFK Partners, Early Intervention Colorado, El Grupo Vida, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Assuring Better Child health and Development, University of Colorado Denver, The Children's Hospital, Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health and The Colorado Trust.

## FEBRUARY COAIMH TEACH-IN: SAVE THE DATE!

Feb. 12, 2009  
Linda Gilkerson, PhD

We are looking forward to a full day with Dr. Gilkerson in February. Full details of the Teach-in will be available in our next newsletter.

Dr. Gilkerson is director of both the Irving B. Harris Infant Studies Program and the Faculty Development Project on the Brain at The Erickson Institute Graduate School of Child Development. 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.

She also directs Project Connect, an initiative that provides parent-child therapeutic services to young children in the foster care services and their families, with the goal of strengthening and reuniting families.

Gilkerson has served on the Illinois Interagency Council for Early Intervention and has chaired the Early Care and Education Committee of the Futures for Kids Initiative. A board member of Zero to Three, she also chairs their Infant Mental Health Task Force.

Her areas of expertise include: early intervention with infants and families, with special emphasis on high-risk children in hospital settings; teacher and caregivers education about the brain development; and supporting the parents of fussy babies.

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

Sincerely,  
CO Association for Infant Mental Health

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