



Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health

Fall Newsletter
September 2009

Dear COAIMH Members, Friends and Colleagues,

We have missed our electronic connection with you, but are excited to be rolling out our new COAIMH Newsletter!! We hope the format will make the content easier for you to read and respond to and that your contact information will be easier to manage, with the subscribe and unsubscribe functions of this product.

Please see the contact information for submitting articles or notices of interest and communicating with the Newsletter editors. Enjoy!

Betsy Rogers, Vice-President for Membership

Note from the President

Dear CoAIMH Members and Friends,

This has been an exciting year for the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. We are delighted to launch this monthly newsletter to communicate with stakeholders, professionals, family members, and others interested in infant and early childhood mental health. Our website, www.coaimh.org, features up-to-date information and news about happenings in Colorado and across the globe. Please visit the website and be sure to look at the calendar for events and professional development opportunities. If you would like to post events to the calendar, please email Holly Wilcher at Holly.Wilcher@ccd.edu.

Thanks to all of you, our biennial conference, Early Childhood Mental Health in Colorado: Confident, Competent, Recognized, held on February 12th and 13th 2009, was a resounding success. Over 200 professionals, stakeholders, administrators, and policy makers attended the event. The conference focused on developing and promoting competencies for the early childhood workforce across settings, disciplines, and counties. National speakers, local leaders including the First Lady of Colorado, and expert presenters highlighted Colorado programs and agencies providing state-of-the-art early childhood services to babies, young children, and their families and to the professionals who work with them. At our June meeting, we hosted the third annual Robert J. Harmon Memorial Lecture honoring Dr. Robert Emde. Dr. Emde's lecture and other past presentations can be viewed by members on the CoAIMH website.

Fall Workshop

Colorado Association for Play
Therapy
Presents
Barry Chaloner, MEd., LPC

at Our Fall Workshop on
Spetember 18th:

Brain-Based Early Mental
Health Consultation,
Intervention, & Play Therapy
for Clinicians & Educators
Serving Early Childhood
Settings: A Focus on
Controlling, Aggressive, &
Tantruming Children Ages 1-
6

Please see our calendar for
more information, late
registration is welcome.

WonderBabies Community Forum

The 2nd Annual
Stakeholders' Community
Forum:
Risk, Resiliency and
Resources for Babies,
Young Children, and their
Families
is Wednesday, December 2,
2009

8:30 am - 4:00 pm
University of Colorado
Denver - Anschutz Campus
Education 2 South Building,
Room 1102

Keynote Speaker:
Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW,
RSW

We are pleased to announce the Ms. Jodi Hardin, Early Childhood Systems Specialist in the Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien's is joining our Advisory Board. We welcome Jodi and look forward to sharing her vision and commitment to early childhood initiatives in Colorado with all of you. Please see the website for her biography and additional details.

Save the dates:

Fall meeting on Tuesday September 22 (The Children's Hospital),

Annual business meeting on Tuesday December 1 (The Children's Hospital)
- Ms. Evelyn Wotherspoon will be presenting on young children in the child welfare system; we will also be holding elections for CoAIMH officers

Biennial teach-in on Friday February 12, 2010

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.

This is an exciting and important time in Colorado for early childhood mental health. Many of us are committed to promoting the social/emotional development of young children, preventing the development of serious mental health disorders through early identification, and intervening with best practices when children present with serious problems.

Please stay in touch and let us know how we can support your work and celebrate your accomplishments.

Warm regards,

Ayelet Talmi, PhD
President, CoAIMH

COAIMH PowerPoint Library Coming Soon!

For Members Only: The COAIMH Training Workgroup will be unveiling our COAIMH On-Line PowerPoint Resource Library in November of 2009. This library will have PowerPoints that you can download, use and adapt for training and informational purposes on topics of interest in Infant Mental Health.

Member Volunteers Needed: Be the first to review professional PowerPoint presentations being submitted for posting on our new COAIMH On-Line PowerPoint Resource Library! Send your interest in serving on our Reviewer Team to Alyson Hatten and Betsy Rogers. We are looking for 12 people or more to serve on this team. You will be asked to review submitted PowerPoint presentations for our On-Line Resource Library with a turn-around time of 1 week. We will review in groups of 3, so the workload will be light and interesting. We have a format for the review. Thanks for considering contributing to COAIMH in this way!!

Alyson.Hatten@UCHSC.edu and BetsyRogers@aumhc.org

For more information contact
Mandi Millar at
amanda.millar@ucdenver.edu

WAIMH World Congress

The electronic submission for the WAIMH 12th World Congress in Leipzig is now open:

12th World Congress
Infancy in Times of Transition
Leipzig, Germany
June 29 - July 3, 2010
View the Congress Call for Papers.

The electronic submission is open until October 30, 2009. For more information on Leipzig, registration and accommodation, please visit <http://www.waimh-leipzig2010.org/>.
Welcome to Leipzig!

The Programme Committee

Want more info?

[See Our Calendar for More Great Events!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Colorado Bright Beginnings Luncheon

Colorado Bright Beginnings Luncheon to Feature Speaker Dr. Alison Gopnik and Honoree Adele Phelan

The Colorado Bright Beginnings Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 11:30 am to 1 pm, at The Ritz-Carlton, Denver, will benefit Colorado Bright Beginnings, a nonprofit organization that helps parents shape their children's future and their readiness to learn.

The luncheon will feature the nationally-known child development expert Dr. Alison Gopnick, author of *The Scientist in the Crib* and *The Philosophical Baby*. Additionally, we will honor Denver native Adele Phelan, who has been a true champion for early childhood education and access to healthcare in our community. Sumaya Vanderhorst and Beverly Eagle are serving as Co-Chairs of the luncheon.

Register now at www.brightbeginningsco.org/Events. The cost is \$100 per person or \$1,250 for a table.

The Early Childhood Social and Emotional Interdisciplinary Core Knowledge and Credential

Holly Wilcher, Colorado Office of Professional Development
July 2009 Colorado Office of Professional Development put the finishing touches on the Early Childhood Social and Emotional Interdisciplinary Core Knowledge and Credential document. The Interdisciplinary Core Knowledge defines the fundamental education needed by a variety of early childhood professionals who work with children and families in a capacity to impact their social health and emotional well-being. The Credential is a voluntary quality assurance process for identifying and recognizing specialized areas of education attained by professionals.

For the last several years, mental health and early childhood professionals across the country have begun to build systems to help the field in determining what defines a knowledgeable and skilled early childhood mental health professional. In 2007 the Colorado Office of Professional Development began its own process by assembling a group of early childhood mental health stakeholders who collaboratively developed the Plan to Promote Early Childhood Social and Emotional Health through Professional Development. The plan outlined seven goals including:

1. Organize a core body of knowledge the early childhood field needs to have to foster positive early childhood social and emotional development, and;
2. Establish an early childhood social and emotional credential specific to the promotion and prevention levels of knowledge and education.

After an exhaustive review of the literature, representatives from various early childhood initiatives convened to give feedback and review content categories identified through the aforementioned literature review. Participants used their extensive and diverse knowledge and experience to identify gaps or overlaps in content and answer the central question, "What knowledge is needed to be able to foster early childhood social and emotional health, prevent social and emotional behavior concerns in young children, and provide individualized supports to children and their families?" Through this process, seven categories emerged:

- Child Development;
- Family Dynamics;
- Responsive Child-Focused Supports and Practices;
- Risk and Resilience;

- Cultural Competence;
- Professionalism; and
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration.

A variety of working groups met frequently over a 10-month time period to develop indicators within each of the seven categories. In addition to their own expertise, working group members accessed a variety of literature including various states' core knowledge documents, current research related to specific topics, programs of study in higher education and community-based training programs related to the content areas. Lastly, state and national content experts generously gave of their time to review the Core Knowledge and provided valuable recommendations which were then incorporated into the final document.

The Core Knowledge and Credential application will be available in early fall on the Colorado Office of Professional Development's Web site. For any questions regarding the Core Knowledge and Credential, please contact Holly Wilcher or 303-355-5205.

Thanks!

For further information, questions, or concerns, please contact Betsy Rogers at BestyRogers@aumhc.org.

Sincerely,

CO Association for Infant Mental Health

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