



## Maternal, Child & Family Health ENews

### MCFH Coalition's New Initiative

The MCFH Coalition is excited to announce the launch of an important new initiative to facilitate a community maternal, child and family health agenda for St. Louis. The initiative, ***Mapping a Course for a Healthier Community for Women, Children and Families*** is a multi-phased approach to convene community and provider stakeholders to identify, prioritize and create solutions to make our community better for women, children and families. When complete, the St. Louis Maternal, Child and Family Health (MCFH) Agenda will serve as roadmap for cohesive, collaborative action, advocacy, and allocation of resources toward jointly determined priorities.

Not since 1998 when the Children's Agenda was created has there been a collaborative and systematic process to identify MCFH priorities. Since that time, the MCFH Coalition was formed and focused its efforts on the Children's Agenda priorities of infant mortality and access to healthcare. While these priorities are ongoing, it is time to re-assess the landscape of MCFH and collectively determine our most pressing concerns and their solutions.

Community members and providers are invited to join in this exciting process. See the article on page 2, Coalition's Quarterly Meetings for more details on how to be involved.

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### What's in the ENews today?

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2. Hot Topics: August Is Immunization Month
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### Hot Topics: August is National Immunization Awareness Month

With children entering child care centers and adolescents entering college, August is a prime opportunity to promote and remind all people to get up-to-date on their immunizations. The National Partnership for Immunizations partners with "Every Child By Two" to promote the National Immunization Awareness Month in August.

With the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of the first HPV vaccine, new opportunities exist to increase adolescent immunization rates during August. The new vaccine is used to prevent the human papillomavirus which is responsible for most of the cases of cervical cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 9700 women will receive a diagnosis of cervical cancer in 2006. The HPV vaccine has been approved for women ages 9-26.

Related to this new opportunity to vaccinate adolescents, the St. Louis Immunization Coalition is launching efforts to increase adolescent vaccinations rates. Particular vaccinations for adolescents include: Hep B, MMR, Tdap, Polio, varicella, Hep A, flu, pneumococcal shot and meningococcal. The 3-year **Adolescent Immunization Outreach Campaign** will educate parents, youth and providers about recommended vaccines for teens. For more information about or to get involved in the campaign, call Jill Thompson at 314-289-5685.

### Website Resources

Check out the following web resources for National Immunization Awareness Month:

National Immunization Program—<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niam/default.htm>

Every Child By Two—<http://www.ecbt.org/new0605.html#AED>

The National Health Museum, Health Headquarters - <http://www.accessexcellence.org/HHQ/HRC/HF/immune805.html>

**More news and calendar of events**

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[www.stl-mcfhc.org](http://www.stl-mcfhc.org)



## Maternal, Child & Family Health ENews

### Updates— MCFH Coalition's Quarterly meetings

At our last Quarterly meeting, Missouri's Literacy Resource Center (LIFT) and Redevelopment Opportunity for Women, Inc. (ROW) presented ways to identify families that live with low literacy and how to help increase literacy and health literacy through focus groups and structure of materials. For additional information on either of these programs, contact LIFT at [www.lift-missouri.org](http://www.lift-missouri.org) or the Literacy Roundtable at [www.literacyroundtable.org](http://www.literacyroundtable.org). ROW can be accessed through their website at [www.row-stl.org](http://www.row-stl.org).

The topic for our next Quarterly Coalition Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. is **"Mapping a Course to a Healthier Community for Women, Children and Families"**. During the facilitated session, participants will identify what good things and things that need to change to help improve the health of mothers, children and families in the region. This is just the first step in a series of steps that will map a course for our region to improve the health of the maternal, child and family population in St. Louis. Subsequent meetings over the course of seven months will focus on looking at the numbers to see what they tell us about how our families are doing, deciding what the greatest needs are, getting the word out about the needs and pulling individuals and groups together to act on those things that need change. After the series of meetings we hope to have a comprehensive maternal, child and family health agenda for St. Louis. You are invited to participate!

### Training Opportunity

The Family Support Council is offering a comprehensive training initiative called the Family Development Credentialing (FDC) Program for front-line workers in late August. For more information, contact Lora Gulley, Manager, Family Support Council/Family Resource Center at 314.534.6015 .



### Special points of interest:

Children are travelers in an unknown land and we are their guides.

-Robert Fisher

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### Coalition Meetings Schedule

August 11 - 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Immunization Coalition - St. Louis County's North Central Community Health Center- 4000 Jennings Station Rd.

August 15 - 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
MO Adolescent Immunization Outreach Planning—539 N. Grand Blvd.

August 25 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Healthy Start Advisory Council—539 N. Grand Blvd.

Sept. 6 - 8:30-10:00 a.m.  
Access Work Group—539 N. Grand Blvd.

Sept. 21— 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
MCFH Coalition Meeting,  
History Museum-Forest Park