

MCFH Coalition ENewsletter



Maternal, Child & Family Health Coalition

www.stl-mcfhc.org

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Minority Health Awareness Month - April

Missouri Office of Minority Health celebrates its fifth annual recognition of Minority Health Awareness. Their stated goal is “to raise awareness of health disparities and other health issues that largely impact minority populations...” They also want to spur governmental, social service and faith-based agencies and organizations to highlight wellness in diverse communities. The Office is coordinating a calendar of events for April’s celebration and will hold an open house at ConnectCare, in the staff conference room, 5535 Delmar, 63112, April 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Another effort to highlight inequity in health is the four-hour series “Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?” It will be aired on KETC/Channel 9 Thursdays March 27, April 3, 10 and 17 from 10:00 – 11:00 p.m. See www.unnaturalcauses.org for more information about the series. Additional information about airing can be obtained through www.ketc.org.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – April

Child Abuse Prevention Month began in the early 1980’s as Congress made commitments to identify and develop solutions to child abuse. Each year the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) coordinates the awareness activities by providing information and releasing national data.

A myriad of resources are available on the web site listed below. They include resource packets, posters, tip sheets and guidance for parents dealing with difficult situations.

http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_packet_2008/

Time to Prepare for National SAFE KIDS Week

Good news! Deaths from unintentional injuries have decreased nationally from 1987 to 2004 for 0-14 year old children. Safe Kids Worldwide attributes this drop to laws and strategies that have increased car seat usage, bicycle helmet usage and plumbing codes that have reduced the potential of scalding.

Yet the need still exists to continue to reduce those numbers further.

Unintentional injury is still the number one cause of death in children ages 1-19. In St. Louis City and County, there were 34,000 injuries in 2004. Safe Kids Worldwide will highlight these successes and ongoing need April 26-May 4. Resources you can use to highlight the ongoing need for injury prevention are available at: <http://www.usa.safekids.org/>. These include fact sheets, information on state laws that support injury prevention efforts, local injury prevention efforts, safety tips and product recall information.

Also, Injury Free Coalition for Kids is another national organization that tries to increase efforts to reduce unintentional injury. <http://www.injuryfree.org/>

National Infant Immunization Week – April 19 - 26

According to the CDC the “National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities.”

Locally, the percentage of 2 year olds in 2003 adequately immunized with DTP was 28%, according to Missouri Immunization Statistics. The percentage for the same age group for polio was 40%, HIB, 53%, Hep-B, 34%, MMR, 69%, and Varicella, 60%.

The need to continue to emphasize infant immunizations is still vitally important. Planning tools, campaign materials and public relations tools are available from the CDC web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/default.htm>

In a related matter, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on vaccine issues voted in late February on new recommendations that expand the recommended ages for annual influenza vaccination of children to include all children from 6 months through 18 years of age. This is an expansion from earlier recommendations that previously targeted children 6 months to 59 months of age. For further details see this CDC site:

<http://www.ohsonline.com/articles/58935/>.

Hot Topic: Adolescent STDs

As recent wire services indicate, adolescent women are experiencing high STD rates. One in four adolescent women were found to have at least one of four sexually transmitted diseases: HPV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and herpes simplex virus. Locally, the city’s rates for people of all ages are 2-7 times higher

than the state rates which are also higher than the national rates. For the county, the rates are 10% higher than the state and 60% higher than the national rates. (City source -

http://www.dhss.mo.gov/LPHA/07PHEducationProject/HealthProfile-STL_City_STL_Co.pdf

County source -

http://www.dhss.mo.gov/LPHA/07PHEducationProject/HealthProfile-STL_Co.pdf).

STDs can cause infertility and cervical cancer in women. Recommendations from the CDC include annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active women younger than 25 and the three-dose HPV vaccine for girls aged 11-12 years and catch-up shots for females aged 13 to 26.

Source: <http://www.norwichbulletin.com/homepage/x1092583904>

MCFH Coalition Update

Coalition Quarterly Meeting:

The Coalition's Quarterly meeting will be held Friday, March 28 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The focus of the meeting is an advocacy update. The invited panel of speakers will address local, state and national issues including health care, child care, immunization, and the Putting Kids First Campaign. The location of the meeting is at the Brentwood Recreation Complex at 2505 S. Brentwood Blvd. Reserve your spot by contacting Tiffany at 314-289-5686.

Coalition Conference:

The Coalition's first annual conference was held Friday, February 29 with 159 people in attendance. Dr. Sonja Boone opened the conference by discussing the importance of incorporating cultural competency into every aspect of an organization's work from the mission/vision statements to staffing to vendor contracts. She closed the day by discussing actual cases and their implications for cultural competency and potential positive actions. Mr. Winston Wilkinson represented the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Wilkinson detailed the resources that are available through the regional offices of civil rights.

In addition to the keynote sessions, participants were able to take in two of four breakout sessions. Those sessions included additional information about the Office of Civil rights, efforts to be culturally sensitive to fathers, cultural and racial bias in the health care setting and putting into practice cultural competency efforts.

The MCFH Coalition was grateful for the Bronze Sponsorship of **SSM St. Mary's Health Center** and **Missouri Foundation for Health** as well as the Breakout Sponsorship of Kids Hope United, Mercy Health Plans, Primaris and Harmony Health Plan.

Web Resources

1. National trends in injury prevention - http://www.usa.safekids.org/content_documents/2007_InjuryTrends.doc
2. Local resources for injury prevention include: SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center at <http://www.cardinalglennon.com/internet/home/glennon30.nsf/Documents/0127B5202EF685C786256FA3005FC5BC?OpenDocument> and St. Louis Children's Hospital at <http://www.stlouischildrens.org/services/advocacyoutreach/tabid/46/Default.aspx>
3. CDC Web Site on STD information - <http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>
4. Local support organizations – Project ARK - http://projectark.wustl.edu/ARK_Mission.html, National Network of STD HIV Prevention Training Centers – St. Louis http://depts.washington.edu/nnptc/regional_centers/centers/stlouis.html
St. Louis County Health Department resources - http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/Doh/STD_site/index_std.html
St. Louis City Health Department - <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/health/testing.html>

MCFH Coalition Welcomes New and Returning Members:

New – Jane Garbutt, MD, Cynthia McCafferty, First Steps Pediatrics, LLC
Returning – Incarnate Word Foundation, Mercy Health Plans, Lemay Child and Family Center, Nurses for Newborns Foundation, Family Support Network, Darcy Scharff, Lottchen Wider, Child Day Care Association, Medical Transportation Management, Donald Cross, Shiela Leander, Melba Moore, Elizabeth George, Primaris

For additional information on any of the articles or for questions and comments contact:
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